

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2459
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2007
RAILWAYS OPTICAL FIBRE CABLE NETWORK
Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to switchover from the BSNL network to the Railways Optical Fibre Cable, as the network on hired BSNL channels face frequent and extensive failures disrupting the passenger reservation system services; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. RailTel proposes to switchover from Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) network to the Railways' Optical Fibre Cable for its Passenger Reservation System (PRS) in a phased manner as Railways have created their own Optical Fibre network spanning 31,000 Route Kilometers connecting 2896 towns/cities across India. Therefore, it will not only be economical to run the PRS on Railways' own network resulting in considerable saving on rental, but it will also enhance the reliability. However, BSNL's network will also be utilized wherever there is unavailability of Railways' own network or as a standby network for important PRS locations.